

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 91, please amend the Abstract as follows:

Q1 The present invention ~~provides a system and method for allocating~~ allocates the supply of critical ~~material~~ components and manufacturing capacity by optimizing critical material planning decisions and dynamically allocating constrained materials using ~~[[.]]~~ ~~The supply allocation system and method support detailed bills of material (BOMs) and optimize the use of constrained materials through~~ advanced substitution logic that ~~even~~ considers alternate suppliers and supports ~~the complete~~ product life cycle from design through end-of-life. The ~~supply allocation system and method of the present invention~~ may utilize unique synchronized allocations and matched sets logic. The synchronized allocations ensure that all ~~necessary materials~~ necessary for production of a ~~product~~ are available in the appropriate time-phased allocation before beginning production to ~~help ensure that~~ minimize wasted production capacity and materials ~~are not wasted on products that cannot be completed~~. The supply system may include various combination of components, including ~~[[,]]~~ a Supply Planner, a Resource Optimizer, a Constraint Based Master Planner, a Product Change Analyzer, a Comparer, a Resource Requirements Planner, a Finite Resource Planner, a Customer Promiser, and an Interactive Master Scheduler. ~~The core of the simulation process is the Supply Planner. Other components, such as the Resource Optimizer and the Comparer, then perform their analyses on the output of the Supply Planner.~~ Another embodiment of the supply system includes a tool that allows users to define products using engineering specifications. ~~"SmartBILL" substitution to increase responsiveness.~~
